

Rain, warmer tonight; rain and colder tomorrow; brisk, shifting winds.

The Washington Times

...YOU FURNISH THE ROOM...
TIMES WANTS
WILL FURNISH THE BOARDER

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WASHINGTON, MONDAY EVENING, FEBRUARY 29, 1904.

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KNOX EXAMINES PANAMA CANAL COMPANY TITLE

May Be Considered Necessary to Send Representative to Paris.

TREASURY CALL HELD UP

Assistant Attorney General Charles W. Russell May Represent U. S.

The Department of Justice has taken up the question of the validity of the title to the Panama Canal, held by the Panama Canal Company. Investigations to determine whether there is any cloud on that title are now being made. It is expected it will soon be decided whether it is necessary to send a representative of the department to Paris.

Attorney General Knox, who was at the White House this morning, having just returned from Palm Beach, indicated that no decision had been reached as to whether an official would be sent to Paris. About a year and a half ago Assistant Attorney General Charles W. Russell was sent over there to investigate the title, and it is not improbable that he will again go over on a similar mission.

Pending the action of the Department of Justice, the call on the banks will not be issued. Secretary Shaw, who has returned from New York, is holding the call back until the matter of validity of title is fully disposed of, and it is uncertain when the call will come. If an official of the Department of Justice has to go to Paris and his report has to be awaited there will be a delay of several weeks at the least.

PANAMA NOMINATIONS SENT TO THE SENATE

The President today sent to the Senate the following nominations:

To be chairman of the Isthmian Canal Commission—Rear Admiral John G. Walker, U. S. N., retired, District of Columbia; William Barclay Parsons, of New York; William H. Burr, of New York; Benjamin M. Harrod, of Louisiana; Carl Ewald Crumley, of California; Frank J. Hecker, of Michigan.

The question of compensation for members of the canal commission is not yet settled.

The President will fix the compensation until Congress adjusts it. It will probably be about \$10,000 a year, and there is said to be a probability that the chairman will get no more than any other member.

CAMDEN BUSINESS BLOCK DESTROYED BY FLAMES

Fire Threatened to Wipe Out Delaware Town—Total Loss Estimated at \$30,000.

DOVER, Del., Feb. 29.—A whole block of brick buildings was destroyed by fire early today in Camden, Del., three miles from this city. The fire was not brought under control until after 8 o'clock, and by that time the building occupied by the local branch of the Baltimore Trust Company, the opera house, and several stores had been destroyed.

A telephone message asking for help was sent to this town, and it was rumored here that the fire was the result of an attempt to rob the bank. The flames were discovered just before daylight and followed a loud explosion in one of the burned buildings.

The town has no fire engine and no public water supply, so bucket brigades were formed and the water was passed from hand to hand. The whole town was aroused and the people flocked to the scene, many in scant attire, to help fight the flames.

After fighting for several hours, the fire was gotten under control about 8:20 o'clock, but not before a whole block was in ruins. The only provision the town has for fighting fire is a hook and ladder company, and the work accomplished by its members saved the town from destruction.

It was reported here that the First National Bank was burned, but later accounts are to the effect that it was saved. The total loss is estimated at \$30,000.

WEATHER REPORT.

There will be rain tonight in the upper Ohio valley, the middle Atlantic and northern portion of the south Atlantic States, continuing tomorrow in the middle Atlantic States. There will be rain or snow, principally snow, in the lower lake region tonight, continuing tomorrow, except in northwestern Ohio. In the east Gulf States the weather will be fair.

It will be warmer tonight in the middle Atlantic States and colder in the Ohio valley. It will be colder tomorrow in the middle Atlantic States, Ohio Valley, and the east Gulf States.

THE SUN.
Sun sets today.....5:52 p. m.
Sun rises tomorrow.....6:34 a. m.

TIDE TABLE.
High tide today.....6:46 p. m.
High tide tomorrow, 7:30 a. m., 7:42 p. m.
Low tide tomorrow, 1:24 a. m., 1:44 p. m.

FOUR PROMINENT JAPANESE ARMY OFFICERS.



FIELD MARSHAL KATSURA,

One of the ablest of the Japanese generals, who has served as attaché abroad, as an officer in several campaigns, and as minister of war and prime minister.



LIEUTENANT GENERAL OSHIMA,

One of the two generals of the same name, who has performed brilliant service for his country in time of war and in preparing for war.



MARQUIS OYAMA,

Field marshal, who divides with Yamagata the chief command of the army. He has had wide variety of experience, and has been in active service since the War of Restoration.



LIEUTENANT GENERAL KODAMA,

Was vice minister of war in war with China, later governor General of Formosa, and recently retired as minister of war to become vice chief of the general staff.

Will Push Postoffice Cases Along Rapidly

District Attorney Beach and Postmaster General Payne Well Pleased Over Result of the Machen Trial.

"The prosecution of Postoffice cases will be pushed along as rapidly as possible,"

This is the statement made today by District Attorney Beach.

Mr. Beach is in an excellent humor, and is naturally delighted with the result of the Machen, Lorenz, and Grotz trial.

In a brief discussion of the great amount of work necessary to accomplish the conviction of the defendants he spoke in the highest terms of the part taken by his first assistant, Hugh T. Taggart, Special Counsel Holmes Conrad, Assistant Attorney General Purdy, Assistant Attorney Kolwin, Postoffice Inspector Mayer, and others who gave assistance in the case.

Returning to the consideration of the prosecution of the Postoffice cases, Mr. Beach said he did not think it would be resumed for about a month. This delay, he said, will be to allow the courts to take up the great number of "jail cases" awaiting trial.

He further said that it has not yet been settled which of the cases will next be called. He is of the opinion, however, that one of the bribery cases will be the next to be tried.

Postmaster General Payne and First Assistant Postmaster General Wynne have been the recipients of many messages of congratulation upon the outcome of the trial of Machen and those who were indicted with him. Letters, telegrams, telephone messages and callers have been pouring in upon them ever since the verdict of the jury was announced.

When seen by a Times reporter today, General Payne said he felt that he

could not say very much about the matter, but made a short statement.

"I feel," he said, "that the Postoffice Department is deserving of congratulation upon the outcome of the investigation. That it should have been cleared of those who were defrauding it is a most happy event. I think all those outside the department who, in any way, aided in the running to earth of crookedness is deserving of the thanks of the government and all who are interested in honest administration of Government affairs."

General Wynne said he felt he could not make any statement, but the following extract from a letter he has written an intimate friend expresses his feelings:

"I am seriously satisfied in the verdict. The thieves have come to justice at last, thank God, not for the punishment they will get, but for the opportunity it gives honest people to draw a free breath. It is to the credit of the District of Columbia, at last, that a verdict has been obtained in conformity with evidence furnished by the Government."

HEARING OF ARGUMENT IN THE TYNER CASE

Arguments will be heard tomorrow in the Court of Appeals on the special appeal of James N. Tyner and Harrison J. Barrett from the decision of Justice Pritchard, who overruled their demurrer to the indictment against them, charging conspiracy.

When the hearing in this case is concluded the appeals of Henry R. Elliott and John A. Moss will be called. It is expected that the argument in all these cases will be concluded tomorrow.

Figures of War Heroes For Statuary Terrace

President Approves Frederick the Great, Napoleon, Caesar, and Alexander the Great for Grounds of Army War College.

Frederick the Great, Napoleon, Caesar and Alexander the Great are the four warriors whose statues will have a place on Statuary Terrace in the grounds of the new Army War College.

President Roosevelt has expressed his approval of this quartet of statues, and Congress will doubtless be asked at this session to appropriate money for figures of Napoleon, Caesar and Alexander the Great, the statue of Frederick the Great

having been given to this country by Emperor William.

It has been suggested that the number of statues may be increased to six, but it is not likely this will be done at once. Souvarov, the Russian officer who distinguished himself by his engineering work, has been talked of as one who may be honored, but the President said to desire that Hannibal and some other hero who distinguished himself in actual fighting shall be selected in case additional statues are asked for.

SUFFRAGE CASES ON IN SUPREME COURT

The cases of William H. Jones, William S. Schenck et al., Virginia negroes, who claim to have been disfranchised because of their color by the new constitution of Virginia, came up again in the Supreme Court of the United States today. A motion on behalf of the State of Virginia to dismiss the complaint.

As the cases, which have been on the docket for more than a year, will be argued on their merits in a short time, the court postponed the motions submitted today until after the hearing of the cases.

NEW REPRESENTATIVE SWORN IN

When the House met today George A. Custor, who was elected to succeed to the seat of the late Representative Burk, of Philadelphia, was presented by Mr. Adams (Rep., Pa.) and sworn in.

FUNERAL SERVICES OF E. N. SPIELMAN

The funeral of E. N. Spielman, a clerk in the office of the Auditor for the Navy Department, was held yesterday afternoon from the Glendower apartment house. The service was conducted by Rev. John L. Leary, P. A. M., and Lafayette Royal Arch Chapter, No. 5. The Rev. Dr. Kellinger officiated.

Mr. Spielman died of heart trouble on Thursday at the Glendower. He was a native of Chambersburg, Pa., and had been employed in the Navy Department since 1893. He is survived by a widow and a daughter.

HAND BADLY BURNED.

His left hand badly burned as the result of an explosion of gasoline at Brandy, Va., last night, Layton Neal, a negro, sixty-four years old, arrived in Washington from that place, and was sent to the Casualty Hospital. After having been dressed he was sent to a negro mission for the night.

ATTEMPT TO STEAL WASHINGTON'S WILL

Thieves Break Into Courthouse at Fairfax, Va.

USE EXPLOSIVE ON VAULT

Doors Fail to Give Way—Relic Eludes Them—Fighting Off.

ALEXANDRIA, Va., Feb. 29.—An unsuccessful attempt to steal the last will of George Washington from his resting place in the vault of the courthouse at Fairfax, Va., was made last night. Thieves forced an entrance into the courthouse building, but were unable to break open the vault, when the will has been kept for many years inclosed in a glass case.

No Valuables Taken.

Nothing of value was taken from the courthouse, although many legal papers were scattered about the rooms of the building in the search for the desired relic. The combination of the vault was blown off, but the doors were not displaced by the explosion.

It is believed that the perpetrators were frightened away. The police of Alexandria have been notified to look out for the thieves.

A Varied History.

This document has been subjected to so many changes and chances that it is remarkable it still exists. It was written in 1790 and dated July 9. On the death of the testator it was filed with the clerk of Fairfax county, whose office was in the Fairfax courthouse.

There it rested with other valuable Revolutionary papers until the outbreak of the civil war. For what was considered its greater safety the will was then taken to Richmond and deposited in the State Capitol. When the Confederates evacuated the Virginia Capital the document was left to its fate and was found by a soldier among some rubbish on the floor of the office of the Commonwealth's secretary. It later passed into the possession of a resident of Fairfax county and was by him restored to its rightful place.

Kept in Vault.

The county authorities then devised the vault in which it has since been kept. The will was spread open in a glass case and the case securely locked in the large iron safe used by the county authorities for the keeping of the county records.

These precautions proved their need a few years ago, when an attempt was made by burglars to blow open the safe. It happened the attempt was an entire success, but the thieves did not appreciate the value of the will, apparently, for it was left on the floor, loose among other ancient but less interesting documents.

Prepared Solely by Washington.

Washington prepared this will altogether by himself. It consists of twenty-nine pages of closely written paper, each page signed by the devisee. There were no witnesses. Otherwise the instrument is a model of clearness and attention to detail. Its text reveals the man as history has judged him—God-fearing, noble, generous and just.

The great Virginian made but one other will—an instrument evidently prepared in great haste and sent with a letter to his "Dear Patsy," when he took command of the Continental army. This paper was probably destroyed. There is no record of its present existence.

LYNCHHAUN CASE SET FOR ARGUMENT APRIL 4

The case of James Lynchhaun, whose extradition was demanded by the government of Great Britain, was set for April 4 in the Supreme Court of the United States today. Lynchhaun was arrested in Indianapolis, but denied that Lynchhaun was his name. He gave the name of Thomas Walsh.

The defense is that he committed a political offense in Ireland which would not be an extraditable one. Great Britain charges that he committed a murder and assault on a woman in one of the landlord and tenant riots.

JAPANESE SINK THREE VESSELS

Report Current in St. Petersburg of a Further Disaster to the Russian Fleet at Port Arthur.

COMMANDANT TELLS TROOPS TO "FIGHT TO THE DEATH"

ST. PETERSBURG, Feb. 29.—AN UNCONFIRMED RUMOR IS CURRENT HERE THIS EVENING THAT TWO RUSSIAN BATTLESHIPS AND A TORPEDO BOAT HAVE BEEN SUNK AT PORT ARTHUR.

LONDON, Feb. 29.—Reuters Telegram Company has received a dispatch from St. Petersburg stating that a telegram has been received there from Port Arthur that General Stoessel, commanding the port, has today issued an order directing the attention of the troops and inhabitants to the fact that the Japanese intend to land at Port Arthur and seize the fortress.

The general declares that he will never give the order to surrender. He calls on everybody to fight to the death, "as no one can save himself without fighting."

Two Armies Converging Between Seoul and Wiju

CHEEFOO, Feb. 29.—Definite news regarding the military operations of Russia and Japan is now coming in, and for the first time since hostilities began it is possible to get a good line on the positions of the opposing armies. The primary Russian base for the invasion of Korea is at Liao-Yang-Chau, on the Manchurian road, which is connected by the only good road in the country with Kiulen-Cheng, where the secondary base is fixed. It is expected this latter base will later be transferred to Wiju. Despite reports to the contrary it now appears that there are but 1,000 men at Wiju, while small outposts have been placed at Senchen, Cheng-Ju and An-Ju in northern Korea. The Japanese are advancing toward the north along the Hai-Ju-Huang-Ju road from Seoul and toward Ping-Yang, which is at present occupied by outposts only.

Supposing that Ping-Yang is the objective of both forces, the Japanese are in the better position as they will have time to occupy the point with some strength and possibly fortify the hills north of the town before the Russians arrive. A thaw is due to begin within the next fortnight, when operations on both sides will be greatly hampered and possibly suspended. This signifies that a clash must come before that time unless both forces desire to delay matters so as to get into more efficient condition for the fight.

The failure of the Japanese to destroy or bottle up the Russians at Port Arthur makes the Russians secure in Manchuria for the time being at least. It also effectively constitutes Korea as the scene for the opening chapters of the war.

NOBLES IN MOSCOW WILL AID RUSSIANS WOUNDED IN EAST

MOSCOW, Feb. 29.—In accordance with a message from the Czar, a large meeting, at which the leading marshals, members of the nobility, and government officials were present, was held here yesterday for the purpose of discussing methods of assistance for Russian soldiers who may be wounded in the Far East. At the close of the business part of the proceedings the assembly dispatched a telegram to the Emperor expressing loyalty to him and the throne.

His majesty replied, recognizing with heartfelt gratitude the message, and continued as follows: "These expressions are a witness of the determination of the Russian nobles to serve their Emperor as in former days."

"The Russian vessels at Port Arthur and Vladivostok will doubtless remain bottled up in the two harbors and do what they can to protect the terminals of the Vladivostok and Port Arthur branches of the railway. It is safe to predict, however, that the usefulness of these railways will be destroyed in a short time by the Japanese."

"With Admiral Alexieff established at the open sea."

TURKEY HASTENS PREPARATIONS TO STRIKE BULGARIA

Clash Between the Two Countries Thought to Be Inevitable.

FLEET BEING REPAIRED

Great Activity on the Border. Frontier Defenses Receive Finishing Touches.

LONDON, Feb. 29.—Both Turkey and Bulgaria are rapidly getting affairs in condition for war. That the clash will come in the very early spring has been accepted in many quarters as a foregone conclusion, and word from the two countries today indicates that both are expecting the opening fight in the very near future.

News from Constantinople today is that the porte has ordered the Ansaldo Works to complete the work now progressing on all the cruisers and other ships there; the torpedo boat flotilla has been ordered from the Dardanelles to Constantinople, to be thoroughly gone over and repaired; the cruisers Abdul Medjid, from Philadelphia, and the Ertohrul, from England, are expected to arrive in May, and 2,000 transport vehicles have been ordered for the second Army Corps in Adrianople.

Bulgaria Also Active.

Nor is Bulgaria backward in her preparations for eventualities. A dispatch from Sofia says all of Bulgaria's armament has arrived. One hundred and ten thousand rifles will be distributed this week, and 80,000 rounds of cartridges have been placed in stock ready for distribution. The frontier defenses are complete.

The minister of war is about to order all the young men who have not yet served in the army to report themselves and submit to an army drill. The dispatch adds that news correspondents from foreign papers are rapidly arriving in Sofia, and will make that city their headquarters for a time.

AGNES FRENCH GIVEN SIX YEARS IN PRISON

Woman Tells Justice Pritchard That She Alone Is Guilty of Stealing Payne Jewelry.

With all the bravado which she could command, Agnes French, the white woman who robbed Lydia D. D. Payne, wife of Postmaster General Payne, of about \$2,000 worth of jewelry and money, today stood before Justice Pritchard in Criminal Court No. 1 and admitted her guilt. To her plea she added: "I alone am guilty."

Louis H. Jenifer, who was indicted jointly with Agnes French, when arraigned earlier in the day, pleaded not guilty.

Justice Pritchard sentenced Agnes French to imprisonment for six years in the penitentiary at Moundsville, W. Va. She will, however, be held in Washington as a witness at the trial of Jenifer.

OPERATION NECESSARY FOR PRESIDENT HARPER

CHICAGO, Feb. 29.—President Harper, of the University of Chicago, will be operated on for appendicitis today, or tomorrow, at the Presbyterian Hospital, as the result of a hurried consultation of his physicians.

Dr. Harper's condition became slightly worse last night and Dr. Nicholas Senn was called in consultation.

IMPROVED REGISTRATION OF BIRTHS AND DEATHS

The District Commissioners today forwarded to Congress the draft of a bill providing for the better registration of deaths and births in the District, and recommended its early enactment.

They sent with their communication a copy of the report of Health Officer Woodward showing why the desired legislation is advisable.

DEATH OF MRS. BOYLE, VICTIM OF PARALYSIS

As the result of a second stroke of paralysis on Saturday night, Mrs. E. B. Boyle, wife of Lieutenant Boyle, of the Third police precinct, died at her home, 1835 Fifteenth Street northwest, about 11:30 o'clock yesterday morning.

Mrs. Boyle suffered a stroke of paralysis on Tuesday evening, February 16, while dressing her son's injured finger. Little hope was entertained by Dr. Ma-gruder, the attending physician, for the first few days, but Mrs. Boyle improved until Saturday afternoon, when there was a change for the worse. The second stroke resulted fatally.

As yet the funeral arrangements have not been decided.

DEATH OF JOHN MAHANEY.

John Mahaney, the son of the late Michael Mahaney, died at his home, 213 L Street. Mr. Mahaney was a graduate of the class of '88, Business High School, receiving his diploma at Tampa, Fla. In 1898 Mr. Mahaney enlisted in the District Volunteers, and served his enlistment in Cuba. At the expiration of his enlistment he re-enlisted in the 82nd Corps, and went to the Philippine Islands, where he was discharged after two years and six months service.